

**CITY OF SUGAR HILL  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 2006  
7:30 PM COMMUNITY CENTER  
1166 CHURCH STREET, SUGAR HILL**

**Call to Order** – by Mayor Pirkle at 7:30 p.m. Present were Mayor Gary Pirkle, Mayor Pro Tem Nick Thompson and Council Members Marc Cohen, Steve Edwards, Mike Sullivan and Clint Thompson. Also present were City Manager Bob Hail, City Attorney Lee Thompson and City Clerk Jane Whittington.

**Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**  
**Invocation** – given by Mayor Pirkle

**Approval of Agenda** – Agenda was amended to put item #9 Fall Festival Update under Council Member Edwards Council report. Council Member Cohen motioned to approve the amended agenda. Council Member Sullivan seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

**Approval of Minutes** - Minutes Council Meeting July 10, 2006 were approved as written. Council Member Edwards motioned to approve the Minutes. Council Member Sullivan seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

**City Attorney's Report** – City Attorney Lee Thompson reported that he had updated the City last meeting on the status of the Myrick case that was before Gwinnett Superior Court. The court had entered a verdict in the case in favor of the City. The appeal time has now lapsed so the decision of the court is final.

**Council Reports**

**Council Member Clint Thompson** had no report.

**Council Member Marc Cohen** reported that in Planning & Zoning they issued 63 construction permits, 214 building inspections, and 30 erosion control inspections.

**Council Member Nick Thompson** apologized to his team of 11 year old North Gwinnett All Stars. He promised them that he would have a picture to project tonight but he did not bring it. He will bring it to the next meeting. Last month on the 25<sup>th</sup>, the team was eliminated from the State Tournament. They were 7<sup>th</sup> out of 18 teams in their district. This Friday at 11:00 at the Golf Course the DDA will have a Special Called meeting to discuss the architecture in and around downtown (West Broad Street, Peachtree Industrial Blvd and Highway 20).

**Council Member Steve Edwards** thanked the following for their help with the golf course renovations: some of the city employees who dug deep and worked extremely hard to get the course ready for tomorrow's grand opening were Joe Appling from the street department, Johnny Upchurch

from the gas department, Jeff Ivey and his crew, Jeff Heffner and his crew, Ronnie camp, Bob Hail and all the others who contributed. Thank you on behalf of the Mayor and Council. He firmly believes that we have a great product out there now. He explained that the golf course opened in 1992 and since that time they had to utilize it as a spray field to dump the affluent water from the Gwinnett County Water Treatment. In March that contract expired and they are now dry for the first time. They have renovated the greens and the clubhouse and various areas of the golf course. Today was the first day of play since the renovations and all the way around the city has done a good job at bringing it up to par.

As far as the Fall Festival sponsorships, they are at the level of \$42,000. They have some sponsors at the platinum or the \$5,000 level, Bodyplex, Honda Mall of Georgia, and The Family Church to name a few. The sponsorship Consultant John St. James has really come through. There are 35 paid arts and crafts vendors registered so far. The feature band will be Tommy Crane and the Cross Town All Stars. There will be a parade and the 5K race, and about 30 cars committed for the car show. We are in very good shape for the Fall Festival. Andy McQuagge, the new Recreation Director will be giving future updates.

**Council Member Mike Sullivan** reported that he was out at the golf course today also and he heard people who are fans of the course say that they had never seen or played on it in better shape. He encouraged everyone to go check it out because he thinks they will be pleased with what they see. As far as the Fall Festival, Steve Edwards has been doing a great job pulling it together. He encouraged everyone to get involved with the festival and especially the Chili Cook Off. The City Council will be looking at updating the Alcohol Ordinance next month to encourage restaurants to come to the city. If you want to be involved in that please come out to the meeting.

**Mayor's Report – Mayor Gary Pirkle** reported that the Alcohol Ordinance currently requires 500 feet from any school or church to the establishment and we are looking for reductions for the downtown area. They are trying to come up with reasonable distances with schools and churches in the area and would like to hear from the citizens on what they think those might be. This Friday is the next movie at the park. It is Racing Stripes and begins at dark. The high school football is starting up this Friday and the fall Festival is October 21<sup>st</sup>. Last week at the Work Session they had the first preview of what the new gym outside would look like. They are trying to get the design of the park worked out by the end of the year so they can start bidding construction early next year. School started back today so everyone that can get involved in your local schools. PTA is a great way to get involved. The North Gwinnett Foundation was started by the Principal of the high school Dr. Green. The purpose is to raise money to distribute to all the different schools in the cluster to give to teachers for various projects. He serves on the board and it is an excellent way to help the schools.

**City Clerk's Report – City Clerk Jane Whittington** reported that the City offices will be closed Monday, September 4<sup>th</sup> for the Labor Day Holiday. The Work Session will be Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup> at the newly renovated City Hall Annex.

Soon the City will offering on line bill pay and automatic draft for gas customers. If you participate in level billing, you will be offered the automatic draft before it is offered to all the customers.

Gwinnett County Tax Bills are going out and you should receive your bill soon. Remember if you pay in two installments, you will only receive the bill one time.

**City Manager's Report - City Manager Bob Hail** reported the following: See Attachment #1.

### **Consent Agenda**

- 1. Resolution – Hazardous Waste Trust Fund**
- 2. Resolution – Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Plan**
- 3. Litter Control Ordinance**
- 4. GA DCA Local Assistance Grant Contract**

The City Manager read the items to be voted on and explained what they were. Council Member Cohen motioned to approve the Consent Agenda. Council Member Sullivan seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

### **Citizens and Guests Comments**

#### **New Business:**

**PUBLIC HEARING, Resolution – Solid Waste Short Term Work Program** – Hail explained that this is the second required Public Hearing which allows public input regarding the City's Short Term Work Program submittal to the Atlanta Regional Commission and the Department of Community Affairs. The Public Hearing was opened and there were no comments from the public so the Public Hearing was closed. Council Member Cohen motioned to approve the Resolution and direct the City Manager to prepare and submit the documents to the ARC and DCA. Council Member Sullivan seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

**PUBLIC HEARING, RZ-06-005**, Tax Parcels in 7-320 and 320A, 14 parcels originally part of a PRD Annexation/Rezoning which was approved by the City Council on February 14, 2005, Case # AX-04-029. This project did not materialize and on July 10, 2006 the Council approved rezoning for Case # RZ-06-003 which included parcels in the original site specific PRD thereby nullifying the remaining parcels of the original PRD - Hail explained that these parcels of land need to be zoned back to their original status before the PRD was approved. The citizens received their tax assessments and they have in some cases tripled. Gwinnett County has agreed to go back to January of 2006 and assess the properties back to their original status making the tax bills decrease. The Public Hearing was opened and there were no comments from the public so the Public Hearing was closed. Council Member N. Thompson expressed concerns that the people who have already purchased property as commercial could be affected by buffers when they develop if the properties go back to residential. The City Manager explained that there was a 25' buffer attached to the zoning so they would only have to have a 25' buffer when they develop next to residential. Council Member Sullivan motioned to approve RZ-06-005. Council Member Cohen seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

**Customer Service Floater Position** – City Clerk explained the request for making a current part-time position into a full time position and making this a floater to assist in various duties. Council Member Edwards motioned to approve the request. Council Member Cohen seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

**Mosquito Spraying** – Mayor & Council discussed at length the spraying for mosquitoes and whether residents should be allowed to opt out. The Mayor explained that he contacted the GA Department of Agriculture and they had no objections to the pesticide used for spraying. It is a fogging method that would occur at 2:00 a.m. He also contacted a local veterinarian and when he explained that the spraying is UV and water sensitive, the vet felt like it was harmless to the animals. Council Member Cohen stated that the opt-out would not work because the spray might float to them if the street behind them was sprayed.

After considerable discussion the council decided to advertise the schedule of the spraying in every way that they can. The website, the marquee and possibly signs at the entrance of the neighborhoods. This is the first year of the program so they will offer an opt-out if 50% +1 on that particular street signs a petition to do so. The Mayor suggested that an opinion poll be at the Fall Festival so they can gather information after the first spraying. He also wants the label of the chemical used to be on the website for review.

Ms Wilma Arrington spoke in opposition to the spraying. She sent several letters to Mayor & Council expressing her concerns.

Council Member Sullivan motioned to implement the mosquito spraying and also an opt-out option on the streets which submit a petition with 50% +1 property owners/residents of that street signing in objection. The spraying will begin after Labor Day Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup> start date. Council Member C. Thompson seconded the motion. Approved 4-1 with Council Member Cohen voting nay.

**Fall Festival Update** - Edwards

**Executive Session: Legal, Real Estate and/or Personnel:** No Executive Session was held.

**Adjournment:** Council Member Cohen motioned to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. Council Member N. Thompson seconded the motion. Approved 5-0

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Gary Pirkle, Mayor

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Jane Whittington, City Clerk